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BRAZILIAN PHOTOGRAPHS

M. Ferrez was photographer to the Geological Survey of Brazil and received a medal at Philadelphia for the views taken while in that service.

Brazilian scenery a speciality

11 RUA DE S. JOSÉ

WILLIAM FAWCETT WIGHTMAN.*

(An extract from the minutes of proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London; session 1878-9.)

William Fawcett Wightman, second son of the late Benjamin Wightman, solicitor, was born on the 24th of July, 1844, at Sheffield, and was educated partly at the collegiate school in that town and partly at Meiningen, in Germany. In 1860 he was articled to Mr. James Brunless, vice-president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and during that time was employed on the parliamentary surveys for various railways and projected railways, as well as upon the designs for the numerous iron bridges, viaducts, stations, and other works on the São Paulo railway then in course of construction, and in the preparation of the plans and estimates for water works in the town of São Paulo. After the expiration of his pupillage, Mr. Wightman was engaged as an assistant engineer under Mr. Alexander McKerron, M. Inst. C. E., on the works of the Solway Junction railway, a line about twenty miles in length on which there is a viaduct, crossing the Solway Firth, over a mile in length. In January 1867, he went to Brazil on a three years' agreement, as an assistant engineer on the São Paulo railway. In the summer of 1870, he returned to England; but in the autumn of the same year he entered into a fresh arrangement with the same company for a further term of three years. During this second agreement the works on the Serra were seriously injured by excessive storms of rain and floods, where Mr. Wightman's able and unremitting exertions in repairing the damage were conspicuous. Unfortunately, the constant exposure on the Serra to tropical rains, during night and day for many weeks, made serious inroads on his health. When the concession for the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway was obtained, Mr. Wightman was offered the post of engineer in chief of the first section. The directors of the São Paulo Railway Company, on the circumstances being represented to them, considerably allowed him to resign his appointment on that line, in order to take charge of the works. In 1872 Mr. Wightman made the preliminary explorations and surveys of this section of the line, a length of 56 miles, and afterwards staked it out, and superintended the construction of the works until their completion and acceptance by the Brazilian government in 1876. The works on this section comprised, besides heavy earthworks, a tunnel through rock, 250 yards in length, and six iron bridges, one of 500 feet, one of 140 feet, two of 66 feet and two of about 40 feet in length, the iron work for all of which, as well as for the rest of the bridges, about thirty in number, was designed by him. He also designed and superintended, until near their completion, the works of the terminal station in São Paulo, comprising a building for the company's offices, carriage sheds, locomotive sheds, etc. In the summer of 1876 this section of the line having been completed to the satisfaction of the company, Mr. Wightman returned to England. His intention was to obtain some post in England, or on the continent; but failing in this, owing to the depressed condition of engineering generally and the disturbed state of the continent, he returned to Brazil in August, 1878, and was immediately offered the post of engineer in chief of the São Paulo water works. The time within which, according to the terms of the concession, the works were to be commenced having nearly arrived, Mr. Wightman became busily engaged in the preparation of the necessary plans for their construction. Up to this time everything seems to have gone as well with him in business matters as he could possibly wish. His career was soon, however, to draw to a close. In the afternoon of the 6th of October, his friend, Mr. C. D. Dulley, was superintending the fixing of a pump in a well, and had sent a Portuguese servant to clear out some chips from the surface of the water before finally closing it. As the man did not return, Mr. Dulley went to look after him, and found

him in the water calling for help. By the aid of a ladder Mr. Dulley descended to his servant's assistance, to be in turn placed in the same difficulty. Mr. Wightman happened to call at the house at the moment, and finding his friend labouring, he got up the ladder, he went down to help him. Both managed to get almost to the top of the well when they fell back and rose no more.

The cause of death was foul sulphurous air, that had been forced into the well by a process common in Brazil for killing ants. The subterranean passage made by these insects communicated with the well, and the sulphur and charcoal fumes, which are blown into the ants' nests, had reached the well, and the foul gases had remained there. A friend of the late Mr. Wightman's, and a resident in São Paulo, writing about the accident says:

"I need not describe the heartrending scene, and the fruitless endeavours to call to life again the strong men thus snatched away from all that was dear to them. They were unable in their deaths as in their lives—poor Wightman absolutely giving life away in the attempt to save that of his friend. The whole city was in consternation, and the funeral was quite a public demonstration of grief."

Mr. Wightman was elected a member of the institution on the 6th of February, 1879. His chief characteristics were a singularly fearless and frank disposition and a moral conscientiousness which made him utterly incapable of doing a mean or underhand action, combined with energy and perseverance, and an honest straight-forward manliness of character.

* Died at São Paulo, October 6th, 1878, where he took Mr. Charles H. Dulley and Mr. Wightman lost their lives in a large effort to rescue a Portuguese laborer from a cistern filled with sulphurous gases.

PIANOS AND DOCTORS.

At first sight it would seem that there could be nothing more extravagant and incongruous than such a title as Pianos and Doctors. What mysticisms it can possibly name two things so far removed from each other? At the same time we don't mean to propose conundrums or riddles for the undoing of which it is necessary to call into action the ingenuity and skill which the Portuguese poet speaks of. The thing is just this: pianos and doctors are the two greatest plagues of Rio de Janeiro, and it is from this point of view that we propose to consider them.

Walk the streets of this city from Chi-coro where they make so much noise about duties, to the farthest end of Botafogo where ministers are recruited, and upon all sides you will hear: "Good morning, Doctor." "How do you do, Doctor." "Oh Doctor!" "This way, Doctor." "My dear Doctor!" and from all sides intermingled with these greetings there are poured into your ears all sorts of tunes, pounded from a thousand different pianos. At one time it is a decrepit and tattered old tin panstrumming through the intricacies of a *lambic* waltz with the comic grimaces of a faded old lady calling up the recollections of her past life; at another it is a Hertz eventing (so they call it) the never-to-be-sufficiently-played *Dumbe* of Strauss. Here is a Pleyel, breaking forth in harmonies of Wagner, there an Erard undertaking to interpret the divine lunacies of Chopin with that oppressive monotony with which an Englishman recites verses. There again is an old-fashioned upright, most terrible of all pianos, with its key-board yellowed by many a summer, with a lame-one footstep-piece of green silk, through the holes of which its ribs are visible, and an ill-starred player who runs the scale from morning till night. It is the ghost of *Banquo* to the whole neighborhood. I know of but one thing in the world worse than that of these old-fashioned upright pianos, and that is—two of them. In fine it may be said that there are more pianos and doctors in Rio de Janeiro than there are gas jets.

To be a doctor or not to be a doctor, that is our great problem. A shoemaker passes his whole lifetime in making shoes. By means of his needle and awl he has reared a family, and inch by inch attained indepen-

dence. But ask this modern Handsack why he don't intend his son to follow the noble art of pounding sole-leather, and he will answer you, wisely hurt, that he is not yet weaned, and that "that boy there is not the kind of a fellow for this sort of life." "What do you intend doing with him then?" "What am I going to make of him?" "Yes." "The same as the rest of 'em. He must be a doctor as well as the son of José Luiz Galfinha, who is no better than mine." José Luiz, whom the neighborhood has nicknamed Hen (gallinha)—I don't know why, or rather, I don't know why they didn't call him potato or had banana—is also a boot artist who almost fainted with delight the day he saw his son come home with an emerald signet ring on his fore finger. And everybody thinks with these two shoemakers, whether they be tailors, blacksmiths, cabinet-makers, painters, silversmiths, inkers, or barbers; and if a new order of ideas does not change the course of events in this world, in less than half a century Rio de Janeiro will be the most renowned city on the face of the earth. There will be no one to make our trousers, our shoes, chairs or jewelry, nobody to mix our dough or to slave us, but in compensation we will have doctors for all these things. These are no extravagant figures of speech. Would you have a proof of our *pan-doctorum*? About two o'clock in the afternoon, midway on the Ouvidor, call out: "Oh, doctor!" and at least thirty heads will instinctively turn to answer the call. Such a call produces about the same effect on the passers-by that a *fecheta* does on the line of tilburys in the Largo de São Francisco de Paula.

A person addresses us amicably, calling us by the family name. We know him, have seen him somewhere, but can not recall his name. We must reciprocate his politeness. Now, how are we to get out of this scrape? There is nothing easier. Assume a smile, press his hand, and merely say, "Oh, doctor, how do you do?" Ninety-nine chances to one you are correct!

The title of doctor is the magic wand, the "open sesame," that opens all doors. The doctors find forth in the Chamber of Deputies, in the Senate, swarm into all the public offices, into the musical and dance societies, into bank and mercantile enterprises—in fine, into all branches of public service.

There are, besides, certain individuals who have acquired the title of doctor by popular decree. The newspaper man, for example, is a doctor; he who writes romances and publishes verses is also a doctor. The provincial deputy is a doctor; the general deputy is a doctor; the solicitor is a doctor; the *subdelegado* is a doctor; the graduate of the Dom Pedro II college is a doctor; and doctors are the freshmen in the medical, law, and polytechnic schools.

Hear this conversation between two interesting young ladies, and see the influence of the doctor from the most important point of view. "How do you do, Bebeça; how are you?" "Oh, Marcos! what a long time it is since I saw you!" "I have been on the fazenda!" "I congratulate you! I know—I know!" "Know what?" "Yes, don't play innocent. So it's true?" "Yes. Who told you?" "Your cousin. I met her yesterday at Godinho's and was talking with her about you." "I didn't want to, but papa told me he was a very good young man and, besides, that he was in a very fine position." "What is he?" "He's a doctor!" "Doctor of what?" "To tell you the truth, I don't know yet. Papa only told me that he was a doctor and that he was a very good match. And about your marriage, how is it getting along?" "It's the same as it was. I'm waiting for him to graduate." "Is he not here?" "No! he's in São Paulo. About Calota, poor thing! I have you heard about her?" "No! what has happened?" "She's going to marry too." "To whom?" "Ah, it's a very unfortunate marriage." "Oh, I remember now; I have heard that it was a young man in business." "A clerk! Now could n't that girl have found a young man

who had graduated!" So the doctors go making conquests of the families by right of their diplomas.

Let us now return to our lovely and sympathetic pianos. It would be easier to conceive of a house without tables, without chairs, without stew-pans and without the most necessary domestic utensils, than without one piano at least. Yes, one piano I say, for there are houses with two and even three; two in the parlour for concert evenings and one in the dining room for the children to practise on.

There are people who maintain that music is the most bearable kind of noise. Any one passing through our streets will form an opinion even more extravagant, hearing as he well on one side a *banda* waltz, on another a sentimental pianissimo; there a waltz from Metta, farther on a polka by Calado or Soares, and in all this is not included the marches practised by private societies which denote white squares, *Aida* played by the German band in all the car stations, by the hindquarters of the blind men, and the violins, flutes and harps of the Italians.

A story is told of the president of a province who wishing to get an idea of discord, got a large number of hand-organs together and had them all play at once, and it is said that the most excellent gentleman almost went mad with his experiment. But there is not a single case of anyone having gone mad in this city from any such cause.

The piano among us is a compass. By the music played we know at once in what latitude we are. In the *Cidade Nova* they play the nocturnes of Ravina, pieces by Goria and loose-jointed polkas. In the heart of the city is *Guanying*, the Strauss waltzes and comets from Offenbach. Botafogo, the Catete and their vicinity play the *Dante Alabrás* and the repertoire of Chopin.

While conversing a few days ago with one of the wisest and most interesting young ladies of our society she remarked: "Whenever you hear the *Canto da Dalila* sentimentally fingered on a piano, you may be sure at once that in the house from which the tearful harmony comes there lives the family of some deputy of the north."

Music is the mother-idea of our capital. From the first of January till Silvester's day our conversation amounts to something like this:—

"When is the opera troupe coming?"
"When does the opera troupe perform?"
"The opera troupe has arrived!"
"What letter is it on?"
"Which side is it on?"
"Where is Marianni?"
"Wonderful!"
"Sublime!"

I beg Rio de Janeiro not to be angry with me; for after all, he who writes these lines adores music and is a doctor.—*Journal do Commercio*, Aug. 17, '79.

SILK CULTURE IN THE SOUTH

Within the past two or three years a number of successful attempts to raise silk have been made in North Carolina, Georgia and Texas. In Georgia particularly the subject has begun to attract public attention and several new orchards of mulberry trees are being set out under the most favorable auspices.

It is not generally known that, in Georgia at least, this is a revival of an old industry rather than the introduction of a new one. Silk culture was very successfully carried on in that colony as early as the administration of Gov. Oglethorpe, the first governor. Lands were granted to settlers on condition that they planted 100 white mulberry trees on every ten acres when cleared. In the year 1735 the first eight pounds of raw silk were exported from Savannah to England. In 1757 the weight of silk cocoons raised in Georgia was 1,052 pounds; 1758, 1,040 pounds; 1759, over 10,000 pounds. "It is remarkable," says a contemporary record, "that the raw silk exported from Georgia sells in London for from two to three shillings a pound more than that of any other part of the world." The last parcel brought for sale to Savannah was in 1790, when 200 pounds were exported.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin*.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and the English packet of the 24th, of the month.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 24th, 1879

WE REGRET the necessity of calling the attention of our contemporary, *The American Mail*, to one of the little courtesies of journalism which it should never have forgotten. There is a certain class of items which from their character and wide circulation, become common property; but when it comes to the local work of a newspaper, upon which it spends time and money, there is propriety in it in which other journals should not fail to recognize. We are pleased to have the *Mail* make full and free use of our columns, but we expect it to give as due credit such as the *Commercial Bulletin* and other reputable journals are scrupulous in doing. We are accustomed to use care and discrimination in our editorial work, and we expect to be held fully responsible for it. The *Mail* knows perfectly well how unjust the scissors can be in journalism, and how it is sometimes characterized. We can not but believe that its failure to credit us for extracts in its July number is an oversight, which will not occur again.

IN REGARD to the recent telegram from the inspector-general of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway, we trust that there is some mistake. The telegram states that "the English company had broken the agreement," referring to the contract between the various companies of São Paulo in regard to the carrying of freight over each other's lines. The contract was entered into on the 17th of June last between the English, Paulista, Mogiana, Itana, and São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro companies, and is so manifestly in the interests of the public, so decided a step in advance that it does not seem possible for any one of these companies to recede from it. If it be true that the English company refuses to abide any longer by the agreement, which provides for the through shipment of goods between any station on any one of these roads and this city, it has committed a mistake which it should correct at once. The necessity of re-shipping goods on this line, when arriving over another line, is so annoying and expensive a requirement that the public will not quietly submit to it. No company can safely put itself in antagonism to the interests of the public; on the contrary the facilities of cheap freight rates and through transportation are of so great advantage to the development of the interior districts of a country, that to refuse them or limit them in simply suicidal. A railway company should not depend upon the rates which it is able to extract from the public at any particular time; it should also look to the development of a country and the consequent increase in traffic, which it can assist so largely in bringing about. This principle is so evident, that we can not think that the English company has placed itself in opposition to it. We feel sure that there must be some mistake, some misunderstanding, which will be speedily rectified. It is apparent to every thinking man that the present high rates on Brazilian railways are serious checks to the agricultural development of the interior, and the railway companies should lose no time in giving the subject their careful attention.

It is a recognized principle in political economy that there are certain enterprises influencing or related to private industries, which can be most easily and successfully conducted through the agency of the state. These enterprises, however, should have some relation to the interest of a whole

community, or of a whole industry, and should in no wise discriminate between individuals who have an equal claim upon the favors of the government, or comprise industries which can safely be left to private control. In this sense, the appeal of the Pernambuco delegates to the government in behalf of the sugar industries of their province, now suffering from a peculiar disease of the cane, is altogether warranted and well-timed. Not alone are the people of Pernambuco interested in this measure; the disease has appeared in other parts of Brazil and promises to leave no section of the sugar-producing provinces unvisited. Under such circumstances it is the plain duty of the government to provide the means of studying the disease in order that measures may be taken to stay its ravages. No one planter, nor association of planters, could do this work as well; and even were it possible for them to accomplish the same result, they would in no wise be bound to give their information to the public. A government commission, therefore, is the best and wisest step that could be taken. In regard to the other provision of the bill introduced by the Pernambuco delegates we can not say as much. Had the delegation limited itself to the commission, no fault could possibly have been found with its action, but this it is not proposed to do. The two hundred contos specified in the bill are to be expended, not only in studying the sugar cane disease, but they are to be used also in the purchase and distribution of new seed. This we believe to be radically and finally wrong. The sugar industry is only one of the private industries of the country and the government is no more bound to furnish its planters with seed, than with bulls, or clothes, or money. In equity it can not confer such favors without performing similar services for all other industries. The sugar cane planter has no more claim upon the public treasury than the coffee planter, or the tobacco planter, or the stock-raiser, or the cotton manufacturer. If a certain variety of cane be found liable to disease, or unproductive, the commonest instincts of business will lead the planter to procure another variety; it would be the veriest folly, or stupidity, for him to sit down and wait for the government to start him again. Moreover, the present straitened circumstances of the national finances render it extremely unwise for the government to expend money upon private undertakings. The public creditor has a right to demand that there shall be some curtailment in these practices and that an honest, straight-forward attempt shall be made to bring the expenditures of the nation within its income. And this can be done only by rigorously refusing to expend money on private undertakings. Not only does the circumstance of the treasury demand this, but the highest welfare of the Brazilian people demands that the government shall withdraw its paternal direction and protection in their private affairs, and leave them to work out their own destinies as men.

AFTER A Lapse of many weeks since the subject was referred to it for consideration, the committee on public health in the Chamber of Deputies, has replied to the petition of seven hundred and fifty-nine residents of this city against the further toleration of the vice of prostitution by our municipal authorities. The petitioners, after an unsuccessful attempt to arouse public opinion against this vice, applied to the legislative power for relief, setting forth the injuries resulting to public morals by the publicity and universality of this vice in this city, and the losses and inconveniences of respectable commercial firms who are not unfrequently compelled to move because of the encroachments of these illicit establishments upon their places of business. In reply the committee acknowledges the evils growing out of this vice, reaffirms its presence in the most frequented streets and public places of the city, deplores its corruption of youth and public morals, deprecates its influence upon the customs of society and the restraints of home, points to its alliance with crimes and passions which are forbidden by law, and then consoles itself and the public with the reflection that the vice is an exotic which comes to these shores from the teeming cities of the old world and against which a rigorous quarantine should be established. The committee, in its further discussion of the subject, refers to the regulations placed upon it in some European countries, and rejects the principle

as an official recognition of the vice which no government should permit. In conclusion, the report states that no legislative action is necessary because the laws now in force are amply sufficient for the repression of the vice, and that the municipal authorities are fully empowered to act in the matter. The committee recommends, therefore, that copies of its opinion shall be sent to the municipal council, and to the chief of police. While we may congratulate ourselves in general, and the committee in particular, on this explicitly-expressed opinion against the presence and debasing influence of this vice, it seems to us that the whole matter has been handled too gingerly, with gloves and rhetoric rather than with the strength and indignant denunciation of an outraged public. It is not enough that the committee should recite the evils growing out of this vice; it is not enough that it should assert that the laws now in force are sufficient to meet the case; it is most decidedly and unequivocally futile to shrink all further responsibility by referring its well-phrased opinion to the municipal authorities and chief of police. We know only too well what all this means; the opinion will be read, admired, and then archived. The self-laudatory opinion of the committee that the vice is an exotic will be balm for all the rhetorical wounds otherwise inflicted, and the infamous practice will go on its way without check or reformation. We repeat that the committee has handled this matter with gloves. The report says that the vice is corrupting public morals, but it stops far short of the truthfulness, sensuality and utter depravity which it entails on society, a brood of passions and brutal instincts not only corrupt, but destroy everything that is noble and pure, and aspiring in human nature. We are told that it is an exotic, but the committee forgets or conceals the fact that prostitution is not a proselyting vice, and that, like water, it naturally seeks its own level. The gentlemen of the committee seem to overlook the fact that these abandoned women do not come here from Europe because the state of society is adverse to them and they are actuated by a desire to overcome it, but simply because there is a demand for them and they find it highly profitable to come. It is an occasion for shame that they find so warm a welcome here, rather than occasion for congratulation that they come from without. Will the committee glance over this community and tell us how many influential and prominent men there are, even public officials, who seek the companionship of these notorious women and pride themselves on their familiarity with them? Will it make note of the well-known fact that a prominent Brazilian statesman once bore the reputation of being more easily approached and influenced through his mistress than through regular channels? Will it tell us why it is that this vice exists in every part of Brazil, even in such interior places as Juiz de Fora? And, then, will the gentlemen tell us whether it is timely or wise to treat the vice as an exotic, rather than as an inherent part of Brazilian society? It is evident that in this, as in the other phases of the subject, the truth has been but half told. We have only to read the provincial papers to find how far and deep the evil is implanted in society, and in multitudes of instances where the exotic element does not appear. It needs only a superficial observer to determine how grave are the injuries, morally, intellectually and physically, already done to Brazilian society by its toleration—yes, even its encouragement. Simply referring the committee's report to municipal authorities will accomplish nothing; the evil now requires all the moral and physical force of the government. The attempt made only a few years ago to check it, can not surely be forgotten; nor the signal failure of the effort. It will even be remembered how respectable journals opposed the police and defended the infamous practice. We say, therefore, that the present laws are not sufficient, that the police are powerless, and that it requires other and more determined measures to meet the just demands of the petitioners. More than that, there must be an active and united public opinion created which will compel and assist the enforcement of the law.

—They have a public library in Porto Alegre. During the month of July last 336 persons visited it, and consulted 94 different works. It appears then that by far the larger part of the visitors did not go there to read.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—The work of the General Assembly since our last issue has been largely of that character which gives it only a local interest. The matriculation of students, the granting of pensions, gratifications and permissions to take vacations, consume no small part of the time of both houses, and when to these are added the many discussions on purely partisan questions, there remains very little in which a foreigner can feel interested. In the Senate the discussion on the estimates for the department of empire has continued without cessation, and will probably continue until the classics, modern political history and all the petty grievances of various municipalities throughout the empire, are thoroughly exhausted. In regard to the admission of the newly-appointed senators from São Paulo, the committee on the constitution gave a favorable report on the 14th, and recommended urgency. On the following day, the report was adopted, and Conselheiros José Bonifácio and Carrão were declared senators of the empire. There was some slight opposition, but an unseen power had evidently been moving in the matter, and the opposition was not at all beligerent. The Chamber is still troubled with an occasional spell of work. The deputies are evidently making good use of their time in visiting the public amusements of the *corte* and in having a good time generally. The question of the Xingó concession is still occupying the attention of the deputies. A petition was received on the 14th from Sousel, on the Alto-Xingó, representing that the signers of the former petition are not residents of that municipality. A bill exempting from import duties the materials used in the construction of certain proposed central sugar factories in Espírito Santo has been introduced and referred.

—In the discussion of the estimates for the department of empire on the 24th the Visconde do Rio Branco made an important amendment to the bill providing that an appropriation of 8,400 instead of 6,600 should be made for the chair of political economy in the Instituto Commercial. If the government will carry, this motion to its legitimate conclusion by securing the services of a thoroughly competent political economist, great good will inevitably result. At this time when almost every principle of political science is being violated, there is urgent need of an instructor who shall teach its cardinal doctrines and train up a generation of statesmen who will use wiser methods in the government and development of this great empire.

—The report of the minister of war fixing the land forces of the empire for the year 1880-1, was presented to the Senate on the 20th. The minister places the number of soldiers at 13,000 in times of peace, and 30,000 in times of exceptional danger. The bounties paid are fixed at 400\$ and 500\$ with a grant of 108,900 square metres of land at the expiration of service.

—In his speech on the estimates for the department of justice, on the 7th inst., Senator Mendes de Almeida paid a handsome compliment to the manner in which the American government prepares its reports. Referring to the bulky, badly arranged and unhandy report of the minister of justice, he compared it with the compact and uniform reports of the official departments at Washington, which are convenient for use on one's desk, and are well arranged for reference.

—Act No. 2,897, of the 8th inst. which passed both houses of the General Assembly and received the signature of the Emperor on the 9th, authorizes a supplementary credit of 4,292,137\$676 to meet deficiencies in the budget of 1878-9, Act No. 2,792 of October 20, 1877. The two largest items in this deficiency bill are the interest and sinking fund charges upon the internal funded debt, and the eventual expenses of the government including the fluctuations in exchange.

—The petition of 759 residents, native and foreign, of this city to the Chamber of Deputies protesting against the general and open practices of prostitution which are permitted by the municipal authorities without check or regulation, was the subject of a report of the committee on public health on the 19th inst. The report was full and entered into the moral aspects of the question with much minuteness and earnestness. After a full and satisfactory discussion of the evil, the committee came to the conclusion

that there is no need of the legislative power because *legem habemus*; and that the municipal authorities have full powers in the matter. The committee recommends, therefore, that copies of its opinion be sent to the municipal council and to the chief of police.

—The disease affecting sugar cane in various parts of the empire was brought up in the Chamber on the 19th by Barthelemy de Macello and the entire Pernambuco delegation in the form of a bill appropriating 200,000\$ for the study of the disease and procuring fresh seed if necessary. In introducing the bill the Pernambuco delegate above mentioned stated that the growth of sugar cane was the great source of wealth in his province and was also of great importance in the province of Bahia. The cane disease had already done great harm in Bahia, and was causing serious losses in all the sugar growing districts of Brazil. It is proposed by the bill that a thorough study of the question shall be made and also that new seed shall be procured and distributed among the sugar cane planters.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The sugar cane disease seems to have appeared in several parts of the empire at about the same time. We now hear of it in Pernambuco and as sugar is the principal article of export from that province it is likely to effect the interests of the sugar planters very seriously.

—Cable communications have been reestablished between Rio Grande do Sul and Montevideo.

—The province of Minas has a vacant seat in the Senate. Why don't some one suggest the "Barren" of Sero for the place? The person who got him the title could undoubtedly afford the rest of it. The "Barren" is a man of profound education, and has a perfect wilderness of honor.

—A total lack of individual security is complained of from almost all the provinces, and murders and robberies are increasing rapidly. In Rio Grande do Sul jail birds are allowed to become members of the police corps which is another reason for the incapacity of that body.

—We learn from the *Crusade* that a private letter from Europe has been seen which states that the news received here from Pernambuco relative to the decision against the Madrin and Mamoré railway by the House of Lords, is all a mistake. This unknown authority defers the judgment until October, and states that there is foundation for a hope that the decision will be favorable to Col. Church. We like the pleasing uncertainty and indelicacy of this report, and are not surprised that names and dates are omitted.

—We learn from the *New York World* that Mr. Ernest Morris returned to northern Brazil on the July steamer. Mr. Morris has succeeded in raising the means necessary to enable him to prosecute his explorations on the upper Amazon and his return at this time is in accord with his previously announced determination to finish work already begun. He now goes to Toffe where he will secure canoees for a protracted voyage up the little-known Rio Japura. About one year will be consumed in this trip, possibly a longer time. He will endeavor to discover the branch popularly supposed to connect the Rio Japura and the Rio Negro, and if successful will return through it, and the latter river.

—On the 21st instant the publishers of the *Gazeta da Notícias* began the publication of that journal on one of Marinho's paper perfecting presses, the first press of that kind ever used in South America. The event was the occasion of inaugural ceremonies of a most imposing character. At eleven o'clock of the previous evening the guests began to arrive at the composing and press rooms, in order to witness the new process of wetting the paper. For this purpose water was used. At the conclusion of the labors of the typographical artists a series of toasts was drunk to the before-mentioned artists, to the press, to Salustiano Marinho, to the provincial press, to Terpinia de Menezes, to Frango Junior, to the proprietors and editors of the *Gazeta*. The liquid enjoyed in this "wetting" process is not specified; in view of the fact that water is rapidly becoming one of the most expensive liquids in daily use, it is to be presumed that this beverage was used on this occasion also. A modest lunch was then served to the invited guests, after which there were more toasts and personal felicitations; every body was felicitated. The provincial press and journalists were toasted again. At this time the limited water supply had already been exhausted and other liquids were served. The menu was a novelty, such as only the *Gazeta* knows how to get up. There were "croquetes de volaille à Omelette," "dindes farcies à Marinho," "toast beef à Ramalho Ortiga," and other strange compounds. At half past three, toasts being exhausted, the party went down to the press room to assist in printing the first sheets on the new press. Some of the sheets were a little muddled but that don't signify. Every body assisted. At the signal, the distinguished journalist, Quintino Bocayana, let loose the unseen powers, and amidst the "hurrah" and "vivas" of the large company of assistants, and a burst of electric radiance, the first sheet ran its course and was cut off. It was caught on the fly. We are not told where the electricity came from but as Mr. Rodde, the electrician, is mentioned just there we infer that there was nothing supernatural about it. More congratulations were then offered and the inauguration came to an end. We congratulate our contemporary, also, on its enterprise in this undertaking, and trust that it will be as fully successful as its managers anticipate.

